

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

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O 091750Z JAN 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5003

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0056

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR PINT CH

SUBJECT: CHOU EN-LAI'S FUNERAL: FIRM TURNDOWN OF MIKI AND OTHER
VISITS

REF: PEKING 0054, PEKING 0046

1. UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM TOKYO, JAPANESE EMBASSY MADE REPEATED EFFORTS ON JANUARY 09 TO OBTAIN PRC'S PERMISSION FOR A VISIT BY PRIMIN MIKI IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEATH OF CHOU EN-LAI. PRC'S RESPONSE, A POLITE BUT FIRM AND CLEARLY FINAL "NO", WAS GIVEN TO THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR AROUND 5:30 ON THE EVENING OF THE 09TH. JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED US THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF THIS CONVERSATION.

2. CHIAO BEGAN BY EXPRESSING DEEP GRATITUDE TO MIKI FOR HIS DESIRE TO COME AND THE SINCERITY OF HIS EFFORTS. HE THEN SAID: "THERE ARE RECENTLY REVISED PROTOCOL REGULATIONS WHICH DO NOT ALLOW

FOREIGN GUESTS TO COME TO TAKE PART IN THE FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHOU EN-LAI. WE WILL MAKE NO EXCEPTION. WE APPRECIATE HIS SINCERITY, BUT PLEASE ASK MR. MIKI NOT TO COME. THE AMBASSADOR THEN ASKED
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FOR CONFIRMATION THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OTHER FOREIGN VISITORS,

NOTING THE EMBARRASSMENT TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT IF MIKI COULD NOT COME AND OTHERS WERE PERMITTED TO. CHIAO RECFIRMED THAT THE CHINESE WOULD MAKE NO EXCEPTIONS.

3. THE JAPANESE TELL US THAT AFTER THIS IT STILL TOOK THE EMBASSY QUITE A LOT OF DISUCSSION WITH MIKI, BY PHONE, TO CONVINCE HIM, BUT THAT MIKI FINALLY AGREED TO ABANDON HIS EFFORT TO COME.

4. COMMENT: THE CHINESE MAY HAVE FOUND MIKI'S DESIRE TO VISIT PEKING AT JUST THIS TIME, WITH GROMYKO IN TOKYO, RATHER ATTRACTIVE. BUT OBVIOUSLY WITH SEVERAL OTHER GOVERNMENTS--AND PROBABLY A NUMBER OF FRATERNAL PARTIES--ALSO POUNDING ON THEIR DOOR THEY WOULD HAVE FACED SIZEABE POLITICAL, PROTOCOL AND LOGISTIC PROBLEMS HAD THEY ADOPTED ANY BUT THIS "NOBODY AND NO EXCEPTIONS" STANCE TOWARD FOREIGN DELEGATIONS. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION OF COURSE MIGHT BE THAT THE PRC LEADERSHIP THESE DAYS HAS FAR TOO MUCH URGENT INTERNAL WORK IN HAND TO ALLOW ITS TIME TO BE ABSORBED IN HOSTING CROWDS OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES.
THAYER

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